



**Minutes of the April 21, 2004 Meeting of the
Commission on Men's Health
1:00 p.m. - Atlanta, Georgia**

Members Attending:

William M. Harper, M.D., Chairman
James Bennett, M.D.
Representative Buddy Childers, Vice-Chairman
Representative Carl Von Epps
M. Ramzy Hajmurad, M.D.
Ecleamus Ricks, M.P.H.
James W. Couch, Chief, Health Improvement Programs, DCH

Members Absent:

Charles Braucher, Ph.D.
Teresa Clark, M.D.
Stuart Fors, Ed.D.
Senator Don Thomas

The Georgia Commission on Men's Health (CMH) held its quarterly meeting on April 21, 2004, at the Department of Community Health (DCH) in Atlanta, Georgia. Chairman Harper presided over the meeting and called it to order at 1:15 p.m. A copy of the Agenda and List of Attendees are attached hereto and made official parts of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2.

After the Minutes of the January 28, 2004, Commission on Men's Health (CMH) meeting were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED, Chairman Harper gave an update on the Planning Committee's activities for the 1st Annual Statewide Men's Health Symposium scheduled for June 16, 2004. The invitee list will consist of various healthcare organizations, advocate groups, community leaders, and other key stakeholders, whose focus is on men's health. The goal is to get these key stakeholders together to discuss ways to promote healthy living for men in their communities. Dr. Harper also mentioned that the National Men's Health Network would be donating 150 Tool Kits to distribute to participants. These Tool Kits will help direct or guide participants on how to get started planning events, promoting healthcare awareness, etc. in their communities. The "Save-the-Date" notices announcing the symposium was distributed to the collaborative partners for their information and distribution to their affiliates also. Registration forms will be going out the end of the month. Registration is limited to 150 participants. Dr. Harper asked Mr. Couch for his Executive Director report.

Mr. Couch stated that he has been meeting with the General Counsel's Office regarding the issue of CHAMPS (Community Health and Men's Promotion Summit). He read an e-mail from the General Counsel's office which basically stated that based on the information the Department currently has, it does not believe that it would not be advisable for the CMH to obtain a Federal Employee ID number for CHAMPS for donations or that CHAMPS should be housed under the auspices of CMH. If

CHAMPS is interested in pursuing the initiatives of CMH, it is suggested that CHAMPS to file an application with the IRS seeking recognition of CHAMPS as a supporting organization to CMH. Mr. Couch was unable to get an interpretation of the memo from the General Counsel's Office or a body to answer questions from Commission members. He stated that he would further look into the Department's recommendations and reiterated to Commission members that a final decision has not yet been made.

Disappointed with the very slow progress of getting this issue resolved, Dr. Bennett stated that although CHAMPS wants to work with the Commission, it will continue to move forward to obtain a bank account number, and a 501C status until the issue is resolved with the Department. In the meantime, Dr. Harper suggested that the Commission entertain the idea of CHAMPS and CMH developing a written agreement or a contractual agreement of partnership if CHAMPS cannot legally operate under the auspices of the Commission. Dr. Bennett agreed with the recommendation and will consult with CHAMPS' partners. However, he did reiterate how much more successful CHAMPS can become as a statewide event rather than local if under the umbrella of the Commission. After much discussion with members, CHAMPS will move forward independently until Mr. Couch follows-up with the General Counsel's office to finally bring closure to the CHAMPS issue.

Continuing with his report, Mr. Couch stated that he met with the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer II regarding possibly presenting at the June 16th symposium. He will discuss this with the Symposium's Planning Committee at their upcoming meeting. Mr. Couch referred members to the budget sheet where he mentioned that \$50,000.00 has been added to the CMH budget. Mr. Couch mentioned that we need to hire an Executive Director for the CMH and pursue the Department of Community Health paying a percentage of the director's salary with the rest coming from the CMH budget. Dr. Harper MADE THE MOTION to approve approaching the Commissioner of DCH, Ted Burgess, with the request to hire an Executive Director for the Commission on Men's Health. Representative Carl Von Epps SECONDED THE MOTION. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

Dr. Harper MADE THE MOTION to approve Dr. Bennett's discussion of CHAMPS being under the auspices of the CMH and that the Department of Community Health finally bring closure to the issue by either accepting or declining the Commission's request. The MOTION was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED. Mr. Couch will follow-up with the Commission's request to Commissioner Burgess.

Further highlights to the Executive Director's Report included meeting with various minority churches to discuss men's health. Mr. Couch stated he is working with *Faith in the City* to speak at other churches as well. He also met with the President of the Concerned Black Clergy regarding men's health issues. As a FYI, Mr. Couch stated that the Georgia Cancer Coalition has distributed \$2 million to its regional programs for caregivers' education and that there were 17 grants. Mr. Couch will email the document to Commission members per their request. Mr. Couch concluded his report.

Dr. Harper called for Committee reports from members.

Mr. Ecleamus Ricks, Chairman of the Public Information and Education Committee, informed members that the pocket guide had been completed. There was a spelling error on guide that will be corrected and redistributed at the next meeting. No other reports were given.

Dr. Harper opened the floor to Ken Stevens with the Georgia Prostate Cancer Coalition (GPCC), who asked the Commission for guidance on what to do for their next annual forum. The focus of their forums is to educate men about cancer and prostate cancer. Representative Childers suggested that the

GPCC hold their forums in the churches in order to reach their targeted audience. Gregory Rosso, Director of Focus on Men's Health, suggested to take their "show on the road" particularly to the rural areas. Dr. Harper and Mr. Couch suggested that the GPCC collaborate with the Commission. Dr. Bennett agreed with the suggestion and stressed that collaboration by all involved would certainly accomplish the objective, which is advancing men's health. Dr. Bennett invited Mr. Stevens to attend their next CHAMPS meeting to introduce the GPCC and discuss the issue in more detail.

Dr. Harper invited the GPCC to partner with the Commission and MADE THE MOTION to explore a formal agreement with the GPCC (similar with the proposed agreement with CHAMPS). Mr. Stevens would consult with the GPCC governing board and follow up with the Commission on their decision. The MOTION was SECONED by Representative Epps and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

Mr. Stevens was very receptive and appreciated the suggestions from the Commission as well as other participants in the audience. He will follow up with the Commission at a later date.

Dr. Harper called for public comments. Sean Johnson, Men's Health Initiative with the Department of Human Resources, briefed the Commission on various cancer related activities the Division of Public Health is sponsoring. James Couch mentioned the Cancer Awareness Day on April 24, 2004 and also the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure on May 8, 2004. Representative Childers reminded the audience of his annual Rome Health Fair this coming weekend.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 21, 2004.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.